MICROCOSM

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Despite restrictions ..

CHINESE BIBLIOGRAPHY NOW A PAPERBACK

By G. Raymond Nunn

It is very likely that there are no more than a few thousand serious readers in Western Europe and the United States of Chinese newspapers and periodicals published in mainland China.

For this reason the restrictions imposed by the Chinese on the export of periodicals from the mainland since October 1959 have had serious effects. The magnitude of the restrictions may be estimated from the fact that only 44 periodicals in the Chinese language published in mainland China are now available through the regular commercial channels in Hong Kong and elsewhere. This may be compared with 330 which were available a little more than a year ago.

A similar restriction was imposed on newspapers. In the Fall of 1959, overseas subscribers could purchase twelve different newspapers. From the beginning of 1960 only one has been available, the official People's Daily from Peking.

The reason for these restrictions has been stated to be paper shortage in mainland China. The very great increase of publishing, education and of the economy generally must have imposed great strains on the supply of paper. Faced with the choice of supplying home needs only, or of raising paper supply quotas a small, but perhaps critical amount to permit export of newspapers and periodicals, the Peking government may have decided in favor of the former policy. There is other evidence to support this. If Peking were attempting to obstruct completely the export of periodical and newspaper publications, their effort could be much more effective. However, the exchange of periodicals is still permitted, and the National Library of Peking and the Institute of Scientific Documentation of the Chinese Academy of Sciences are engaged on a world-wide program to maintain their cultural and scientific lifelines.

Not all restrictions are imposed by the Chinese. Since the Korean War, trade with China has been restricted by the United States to prevent accumulation of dollars by the Chinese. Fortunately it has been possible for major academic institutions to secure Treasury licenses to import publications originating from mainland China, but the licensing system does prevent a great deal of private purchasing. Finally, there are many instances of unexplained loss. As much as 20 percent of the microfilm sent by registered post from Hong Kong to the United States has not reached its final destination, in spite of license certification.

The major libraries in the United States, in Japan and in Western Europe have attempted to maintain some contact through regular receipt of newspapers and periodicals. The recent restrictions have made this task extremely difficult. We have now reached the stage where we must keep open channels of information through microfilm and Copyflo editions of the essential periodicals and newspapers from one of the very small number of copies of each issue which somehow reach us.

An excellent example of this is the publication on microfilm of the three principal current Chinese bibliographical records. Copies of these have been most difficult to obtain. Some of the originals were handed to Western scholars visiting China, a few were purchased in Hong Kong, others were made available in Western Europe and in Japan, and it was only through a world-wide canvass that the individual issues were located and finally pieced together in complete runs.

[With Mr. Nunn's help, University Microfilms is now able to offer a xerographic reprint of QUAN GUO ZONG SHU MU, the National cumulated bibliography for 1958, published in Peking in 1959. The price is $76.75 for the five paperbound volumes. A microfilm costs $18.00.

[Mr. Nunn is head of the Asia library at the University of Michigan, and is currently chairman of the Asian Studies Committee on American Library Resources on the Far East.

[QUAN... is in our O-P Books series. Order number OP 6666.]

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MICROCOSM is a publication of University Microfilms, Inc. with central offices at 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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MILITARY HISTORIES REISSUED ON FILM AND PAPER

Military historians will be especially interested in some of the publications recently produced by University Microfilms. For example, we have received a bibliography which describes 2,349 American army unit histories in detail. Histories of American Army Units, World Wars I and II, and Korean Conflict (HAAU), was compiled by C. E. Dornbusch of the New York Public Library. This work was originally published by the Department of the Army in 1956, but has long been out of print. Xerography makes this book available again as OP number 6708, at $19.50.

Unit histories are one of the best ways to get at what really happened in a war, and are of interest not only to professional historians but to regional military organizations interested in local units. This bibliography, in conjunction with Unit Histories issued by the Department of the Army, furnishes a complete check on nearly 2900 units.

With the renewed interest in the Civil War engendered by the centennial of the War Between the States, Mr. Dornbusch is now preparing a bibliography of that conflict. This work includes some periodicals as well as books. New titles will be reported in a supplement to HAAU to be published by Hope Farm Press in 1961.

Mr. Dornbusch, whose special interest is in military history, has prepared bibliographies of Canadian and New Zealand regimental histories, and a similar volume for Australia is in work. Many of the acquisitions for preparing these bibliographies were secured through microfilm and xerographic reproduction. For example, such reproductions have been made of 28 issues of the New Zealand Army Listing, 1863-1899, and of 10 early New Zealand pamphlets on defense materials, as well as of four military manuals from Australia.

Titles on military matters found in the O-P Books catalogue include OP 216: Abbott, Siege artillery in the campaigns against Richmond...; OP 431: Andrews, Colonial background of the American revolution...; OP 874: Fedetoff White, The growth of the Red army; and many others.

MILITARY PERIODICALS

A number of years ago University Microfilms added some important military journals published in the United States, to its Current Periodical list. These include Army, Anti-Aircraft Journal, U. S. Coast Guard Magazine, and Proceedings of the United States Naval Institute.

More recently The Military Collector and Historian has been microfilmed, and a complete set of volumes 1 through 11 (1949-1959) sells for $15.00 as positive 35mm microfilm. Separate out-of-print volumes reproduced by xerography in enlarged size sell for prices ranging from $3.00 to $9.00 each. Prices will be sent on request.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Vols. 1-9 (1940-1949) $19.50

Back in 1935, a group of Canadians decided that their country needed a new organization. It was a time for pioneering of this kind, for Canada was stagnating in the Great Depression. These men believed passionately that education, beyond formal schooling, would help men and women to understand the economic difficulties confronting them and lead them towards constructive social action. Their organization was called the Canadian Association for Adult Education; and one of their first acts as founders was to publish a magazine. That magazine was Food For Thought.

During the intervening years, Food For Thought has been published without interruption. It is not an easy magazine to describe, for it fits no pigeonhole. It is, first of all, a record of people; their dreams and hopes for a better society and of their practical plans for achieving this goal. Its writers range from outstanding figures in education, the humanities, and the social sciences to community workers in voluntary groups throughout the whole of Canada. The journal is unique in one respect: it unites men of good will at every level of Canadian society. There is no other magazine in the nation where concerned writers can express themselves in quite the same way. It has been criticized frequently for its lack of focus -- the professionals in adult education castigate it because it is not learned enough, while the laymen complain that it is much too abstruse! Editorially it is sometimes a nightmare to produce. Yet it goes on because Canadians cannot get along without it, as one of the important unifying forces in the amorphous area labelled 'adult education'.

XEROGRAPHIC EDITIONS OF MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPTS AID DICTIONARY RESEARCH

by Mrs. Margaret S. Ogden

The translation of Latin scientific works into English and the accompanying development of a scientific vocabulary in English is usually thought of as something which began in the Renaissance with the early printed books. Actually in some fields it began much earlier. In medicine, for example, a number of important surgical treatises were translated at the end of the fourteenth century and the beginning of the fifteenth century.

One of the most important works which was translated into English at the beginning of the fifteenth century is the Inventarium chirurgiae (later called the Chirurgia magna), an encyclopedia of surgical knowledge written around 1363 by the famous French surgeon Guy de Chauliac. The Inventarium chirurgiae contains much that is of interest to the historian of medicine. It begins with a brief sketch of medical history from its origin down to Chauliac's own day. The treatise on anatomy includes a description of the anatomical dissections performed at the University of Bologna while Chauliac was a student there. The chapter on the plague tells of the Black Death at Avignon in 1348, when Chauliac was a surgeon at the Papal court and remained at his post when many physicians fled. The chapter on leprosy gives an account of the medical examination to which persons suspected of leprosy were submitted to determine whether they should be committed to a leprosarium. In the course of the book various surgical instruments are described, as well as a number of operations, including those for hernia and cataract. The work ends with an extensive pharmacopoeia.

Two complete translations of the Inventarium chirurgiae were made in the early years of the fifteenth century. Together they made a tremendous contribution to the English scientific vocabulary. And by comparing them with each other and with the Latin original, we can learn much about the methods of medieval translators.

As a first step in studying the contribution of the Middle English translations of Chauliac to the English scientific vocabulary, I am editing one of them. It occurs in a single manuscript in the Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris. The manuscript was probably written in the first half of the fifteenth century and resembles the earlier Chaucer manuscripts in the style of its illuminations. Nothing is known of the name or identity of the translator.

Of the two Middle English translations of Chauliac, that in the Paris manuscript is more thoroughly 'Englished.' Wherever he could, the translator used words already existing in 'the commune langage' to render the Latin words. Accordingly he sometimes used rarely recorded words from everyday speech, as ripple ('an implement for cleaning flax,' first recorded in the Oxford Dictionary in 1660), halky ('full of hollows,' not recorded in the Oxford Dictionary), holy bone ('sacrum,' OD 1615). He often rendered Latin prefixes by English adverbs, as in gadryng-togedre for collectorium and causes going-afore for causae antecedentes. But even he could not resist the general tendency of the time to take over new technical terms directly from Latin. In his work are many first occurrences of technical terms of Latin origin: some still in use today, as speculum (OD 1579), pericranium (OD 1525), parietal (OD 1597), precordial (OD 1562) and others no longer in use, such as the names of obsolete surgical instruments: rugine (OD 1676), separatorie (OD 1656), lenticulare (OD 1754), and olivare (OD 1541). The Middle English Dictionary has read the text using enlargement prints from a microfilm and the volumes of the Dictionary already in print contain many quotations from it which are important for their date or their rarity.

XERO-COPIES

To put the text of a medieval manuscript into modern typography requires close observation of every letter, every penstroke. Handwritten letters, which lack the uniformity of printed letters, are sometimes easily confused (e.g., in some manuscripts, f and long s, c and t) and sometimes quite indistinguishable (e.g., in some manuscripts the minim letters n, u, m, and i). Abbreviations, which often consist of strokes over or through letters, and special variants of letters written above the line, must be expanded. Obviously the first need is a good full-size reproduction of the manuscript. For a manuscript as long as the Paris manuscript of Chauliac (191 large folios), the use of Xerox page prints represents a substantial saving. For the other translation of Chauliac, which exists in five manuscripts of the full text and some additional manuscripts of Book I, the cost of full-size enlargement prints from microfilm would be prohibitive.

Not all the problems of an edition can be solved by reference to the manuscript alone. This is especially true of a translated work or a learned work containing many quotations. To elucidate such a text, it is often necessary to refer to the Latin original, to other translations, and even to the sources of the original work. The Middle English translation of Chauliac's Inventarium in the Paris manuscript is such a text. As no modern scholarly edition exists of the Latin text, of the other Middle English translation, or indeed of many of Chauliac's sources, an editor needs a reference shelf of reproductions of related manuscripts. And for this, reproductions by the Copyflo process represent a real breakthrough.

[Mrs. Ogden is an Assistant Editor of the Middle English Dictionary. Her research on the Middle English Chauliac translations has been assisted by a grant from the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies of the University of Michigan, and by a Guggenheim Fellowship.]

NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL EDITION

The New York Times International Edition from the first issue in December, 1948, is now available on microfilm to all subscribers to the paper edition. The cost is $43.40 per year, or $375.20 for the nine years from December, 1948 to December, 1957, postage extra. Subscriptions beginning with 1958 are $42.00 per year, exclusive of postage.

DEMAND NOT A MEASURE OF IMPORTANCE IN PUBLISHED WORKS

BY EUGENE POWER

The reader of this current issue of Microcosm might be impressed with the esoteric nature of the materials described. It is probable that not more than twenty or thirty institutions in the United States are interested in acquiring copies of the Chinese National Bibliography for 1958. Yet this small demand is by no means a measure of importance of this publication to American scholarship, or to our national security for that matter.

At the beginning of World War II there was only one copy of the latest Japanese census in the United States, and yet this information was absolutely essential for the conduct of the War. By the same token, our knowledge of the existence of materials published in the Peoples Republic of China is a vital part of our further understanding of the tremendous changes which are taking place in that country. By knowing what has been published, we may then be able to secure a copy.

Publication of this bibliography merely points up the kind of revolution that is occurring in publishing activities in the United States. Through the combination of microfilm and Xerox it is now possible to re-publish, or to publish for the first time, manuscripts with a potential total demand as small as only one or two copies, and yet do so at a cost which still keeps the price within reason. No longer is it necessary to produce 100 or more copies in order to obtain a reasonable price per copy. No longer is it necessary to invest the available funds of scholarship in inventories of books which may never be sold, and no longer is it necessary to engage in extensive sales campaigns to move these accumulated inventories.

With the small investment in a microfilm negative, old books, journals, out-of-print books and unavailable books, can all be offered with the confident expectation that when and if requests are made for copies, a copy will be produced upon demand promptly and cheaply. What's more, these books never go out of print.

Does it not make sense for us to take a long look at our publishing practices with an idea toward evaluating how many copies are actually needed rather than how many copies we have to produce so as to attain a reasonable price per copy? Further, would it not pay us at this time to analyze what manuscripts are not being printed, but which are needed in modest quantitites? As Rush Welter says in his Problems of Scholarly Publication in the Humanities and Social Sciences: "By all odds the gravest problem of publication that editors of scholarly journals report is the manuscript that is too long for an article yet too short for a book." There is acute need for a publishing process for monographs.

We now have the technology which will enable us to produce copies in editions of one to one million if need be, and there is little reason for material sitting on some editor's or author's shelf unpublished and unused.

At University Microfilms we have the equipment and the technical experience to publish these esoteric materials, either from original paper copy or from your own microfilm. In addition at University Microfilms we have at least 100,000 titles of rare, unavailable, or out-of-print material in microfilm negative in our vaults, which are all in print!

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